

number. ~~that is~~ return
(Return to FCS)

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Reference: [] proposal on using Alaska as a listening post.

To my knowledge no cruising surveys have every been carried out in Alaska, although back in 1957/58 consideration was being given to g doing such a survey in Thule (at the Air Force Base) Greenland. Northing every came of it, for many of the reasons which [] puts forth. At the time a number of problems were forseen regarding reception of broadcasting stations year round. [] points these out throughout his letter: fadeout conditions, when no signals propagate to or from the Arctic, sporatic conditions ~~wh~~ with reception being good early in the morning only (during fall, winter and spring months), etc.

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[] states that the East-West path suffers most with fading (this would be the one in which FBIS would be interested), with north/South and South/north path being more reliable (only Hawaii and water to the south); althoug e indicates that his transmissions were better from New York (east of Fairbanks/Anchorage), with little coming from Hawaii and San Francisco (south of Fairbanks/Anchorage area). He also admits that Arctic Alaska which is situate in the Polar Magnetic cap (another factor discouraging an FBIS site) does suffer periods of severe fadeouts and complete loss of signals "occasionally." Since FBIS would not have year round stable reception, the Far North has been discounted as a possible receiver site.

Again he stress the good propagation, early in the morning (during fall winter and spring months) to the West, all kinds of ~~fi~~ foreign language signals can be heard. Believe that this reception duplicates what is currently being observed from sites on Okinawa and Seoul, with the possible except of Soviet stations in the Far North. If we ever think of moving to Alaska, we should first check [] whom I believe already operate receiving stations in Alaska (Adak and the Aleutians).

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Would have to agree with [] that the "economics of building and operating large quantities of local jammers would be staggering." This is why back in the 60's the Soviet Union introduced the concept of using their "jamming" transmitters to broadcast Moscow domestic service programs on the same frequencies as unwanted signals. This "intentional interference" has worked out quite well for the Soviet Union.

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On other problem I have with [] proposal is "in inspecting my globe," I find that most of the transmissions from Siberia and North Korea and China are actually West of Alaska, with only water and Hawaii being south (which is the good reception path).

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18 13 Nov 81

I agree with Chuck completely. This proposal is well-meaning but bizarre. In addition to the very formidable reception gaps, an Alaskan bureau would provide no advantages. When monitoring terrestrial signals, proximity to the transmitters is essential nowadays. Alaska is close only to northern Canada and Siberia. Neither of these areas offer promise of productive coverage.

sfxw

THE WASHINGTON POST Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1978

U.S. Radio May Air Communist Replies

Associated Press

The United States hopes it can end the jamming of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty by offering free time for responses by Communist officials, a government official said yesterday.

The free time proposal was outlined in the annual report of the Board for International Broadcasting, the government agency controlling the two U.S.-owned stations which broadcast to all of the Warsaw Pact nations except East Germany.

"We are prepared seriously to consider procedures for making time available for responses to those specific complaints [about programming or commentaries] which have merit," the statement said.

A board official, Tony Shub, said it would be up to the board to determine which complaints have merit.

The Soviet Union, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia try to completely jam

the stations," Shub said. "Poland jams some broadcasts. Hungary and Romania do not interfere at all."

When American delegates at the Belgrade Conference on the Helsinki Accords have protested that the jamming violates the treaty's call for free-flowing information, the Soviets have responded that they jam because the stations transmit "defamatory propaganda and serve as fronts for the Central Intelligence Agency." The CIA funded both stations until 1971.

Shub said the free time proposal was meant as a "civilized alternative to jamming." He said it would probably apply to both news stories and editorial comment if accepted by the Eastern European nations.

Shub said there has been no response as yet by the Communist countries, who he said heard of the proposal yesterday morning.

BBC, RFE/RL try to counter shortwave jamming by Soviets

In an attempt to overcome jamming of broadcasts by the Soviet Union, the BBC is increasing its Russian-language broadcasts, creating a five-hour block of programs each day.

The BBC Russian service has been jammed since last August, along with other Western services. The English-language world service is left alone, however. The BBC also announced that a new service would begin for Afghanistan in the Pushto language.

Jamming by the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries continues to pose problems for the American services, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty as well.

In its annual report to Congress, RFE/RL said that while the BBC and the Voice of America were free from jamming from 1973 to 1980, Radio Liberty (which broadcasts to the Soviet Union) has been jammed continuously since 1953, while Radio Free Europe is jammed continuously in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, and less effectively in Poland.

The financial statement showed that the two services received more than \$90 million through annual congressional grant in 1980, and incurred a loss of just over \$5 million. It projected that by fiscal year 1982, the annual budget will exceed \$100 million.

Broadcasting Apr 13 1981
141

4--TV DIGEST

MARCH 16, 1981

More foreign broadcasts will be integral part of Administration campaign to counter spread of Soviet influence. Plans include additional broadcasts to Central Asian regions of Soviet Union, bordering Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. As indication of new radio push, President Reagan said he would boost grants to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty from \$94.3 million recommended by previous administration to \$98.3 million, also will adopt for Voice of America previous administration's proposed \$188 million budget, up from this year's \$101.6 million.

THE VOICE OF AMERICA telling the world the truth

by Nick Thimmesch

Washington — The Voice of America escaped the wrath of Mr. Reagan's squinty-eyed, cost-cutting Congress. It deserves to. The taxpayer gets his money's worth from VOA. Moreover, this national radio station of the United States takes on as much importance as the Reagan administration implements its no-nonsense policy toward the Soviet Union and the rest of the communist world.

A nation should operate from its strengths, and one great American strength is communications.

For nearly 40 years, the Voice of America has beamed broadcasts to all parts of the world. It is warmly welcomed, especially by people living in totalitarian lands.

VOA does first-rate work.

Its newscasts in 40 languages are delivered straight and with unsurpassed accuracy. Its "softer" programming tells the world what kind of people we are, how we live, what we are doing, and presents the music we sing, hum and play. It tells the world about our schools, movies, art, and medical scientists and working people.

It also lets the world know what our editorial pages and commentators are saying, including their criticisms of the U.S. government and society.

VOA is honest radio. It also fulfills its responsibility to "present the policies of the U.S. clearly and effectively" through commentaries and translations of U.S. official policy. And, it's done straight and without the threat or invective characterizing the national radio systems of dictatorial regimes.

A CUBAN NOW living in Europe recently wrote VOA, detailing his 15-year struggle to get out, and telling how, in Cuba, "The Voice of America was the most reliable source of information on the U.S., the world, and Cuba itself."

He said, "All dissidents, and about 90 percent of the Cubans," enjoyed VOA broadcasts as "an escape from a few hours from the filthy, insupportable Communist propaganda of the state-owned and controlled radio media."

His letter is one of 250,000 VOA requests annually from grateful listeners.

Cambodian refugees in Thailand turned to VOA to learn of the fighting between the Khmer Rouge and the Vietnamese. About 23,000 re-

quests came from Chinese listeners asking for materials to help them study English.

When the American businessman William Neilhaus was kidnapped and held captive for three years in Venezuela, his captors allowed him to join them in listening to VOA, "My only real contact with the outside world."

Naturally, Communist regimes "jam" VOA broadcasts, usually cutting their penetration by around 30 percent. The Chinese Communists stopped "jamming" in late 1973. The Soviets suspended "jamming" from 1973 until last August when the rumormongering in Poland began.

VOA technicians noted that Cuba cut its "jamming" when the news broke on the shooting of President Reagan. The assumption was that Castro and his top officials wanted to learn every detail, and that VOA was the most reliable news source.

CUBA AND ALL Latin nations receive five and a half hours of VOA broadcasts daily from a transmitter located at Marathon, in the Florida Keys.

Sen. Jesse Helms pushes for a special "Radio Free Cuba" broadcast by VOA. Agency officials note, however, that such a project is outside the VOA charter, and besides, news and information targeted for Cuba alone would not have the credibility of the current Spanish language broadcasts going to all of Latin America. The point is well made.

Credibility and sensitivity to the circumstances of listeners are the name of the game at VOA. For example, Khmer language broadcasts don't open with the familiar Yankee Doodle music because that might give signals that the listening Cambodians are tuned to the forbidden VOA.

The VOA recently added Dari language broadcasts because that language is popular in Afghanistan. Farsi language broadcasts were stepped up in that Soviet-occupied nation last year. As soon as Azeri-speaking announcers can be hired, broadcasts in that language will be beamed into Azerbaidzhan, a Soviet state adjoining Iran. Russian-language broadcasts were expanded in January.

The process of deciding to increase, expand or cut broadcasts is a slow one involving the State Depart-

ment, the National Security Council, affected embassies, and finally, Congress.

"We look at broadcasting as a long-range, strategic activity," explains Cliff Groce, VOA's program director. "We can't always get announcers quickly when we add an esoteric language broadcast. We were fortunate in getting some Farsi-speaking radio people because they left Iran quickly in rather hairy circumstances. It's not so easy getting someone who speaks Azeri."

THOUGH NEWS is VOA's main business, music gets the most mail, and programs such as the Breakfast Show are popular favorites. A "Press Conference U.S.A." program employs the "Meet the Press" format, with a news-making person being interviewed by American and foreign journalists.

Indeed, the America which comes out of VOA is a lively, open, joyful society, earnest and sometimes too honest. No wonder millions want to migrate to the United States, and only a few stragglers want to leave.

The 1982 operating budget for VOA is \$107 million, less than one-fourth the cost of refitting an old battleship.

Splendid as battleships look as they steam toward the sunset, those 831 hours of VOA broadcasts each week are a far better bargain.

Saturday, April 11, 1981

The Anchorage Times A-7

Good financial news for RFE/RL

Broadcasting
April 13, 1981

Reagan budget proposals give
funding increase to both services

Reaganomics may be bitter medicine for most government programs outside defense, but not for U.S. propaganda and information efforts aimed at countering Soviet influence and spreading word of the U.S. around the world. Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe would receive about \$87 million more in operating funds under the Reagan budgets over the next two years than they would under those proposed by former President Carter. And Reagan plans essentially to keep Carter's proposals for the Voice of America, which involve an \$81-million increase in fiscal year 1982.

The Reagan proposals reflect administration determination to carry out Reagan's campaign pledge to tell the world of the superiority of the American system over Communism. And administration officials see the relatively small increases in the two broadcast services as an inexpensive way of engaging in that kind of debate worldwide.

Radio Liberty, which broadcasts news of the Soviet Union into that country, and Radio Free Europe, which offers domestic news to listeners in other Soviet bloc countries, are to be given the principal role in the ideological battle. National Security Council staff members, backed by NSC chief Richard Allen, are said to have taken the lead in proposing the increase for the two services, which are funded through the Board for International Broadcasting.

The Reagan administration is seeking a \$600,000 supplemental appropriation for RL/RFE in 1981, for a new total of \$100,300,000, as well as authority to divert to operational uses \$2,400,000 now earmarked for relocating RL/RFE personnel back to the U.S. The Reagan administration no longer plans those relocations. Much of the \$3 million total would be used to replace facilities lost in the bomb blast that wrecked the RL/RFE headquarters in Munich last month, as well as to initiate a new service aimed at Soviet central Asia.

The administration is seeking \$4 million more for 1982 than the \$94,317,000 Carter had requested. The reduction from 1981 is more apparent than real, since \$3 million of the 1981 funds is to meet currency devaluation needs, and would be carried over to 1982.

The major news in the budget for VOA—whose mission is to disseminate news of the U.S. worldwide—is the \$81 million being sought in 1982 to build relay stations in Sri Lanka and Botswana to transmit programming to South Asia and Africa. All told, the Reagan administration is seeking \$187,616,000 for the VOA next year, about \$1.2 million less than Carter had proposed.

Both the Carter and the Reagan budgets

Bill to establish U.S. policy council for international communications ready for hearing

The United States' leadership role in supplying technology for international communications and information flow is threatened by certain other countries' policies limiting trade and freedom of information. The U.S. government is unprepared to negotiate agreements with these countries, because its communications policymaking is too compartmentalized to recognize and respond to the problem effectively.

These are the findings of a report to the House Committee on Government Operations completed late last year, entitled "International Information Flow: Forging a New Framework." The report is the basis for a bill to create an executive council to coordinate U.S. policy for international trade in communications technology and the flow of information, primarily through common carriers.

Introduced in mid-February by Representative Glenn English (D-Okla.) the In-

ternational Communications Reorganization Act will be the subject of hearings by the Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights on March 31 and April 1. Although the bill's primary purpose is to solve problems for common carrier and equipment companies trading internationally, it is meant also to address "the erosion around the world of the basic democratic principle of the free flow of information."

A growing number of countries, according to the committee's report, are erecting barriers against trade in common carrier technology and free information exchange with the United States and other countries, for reasons both economic and political. "Whether or not the United States agrees," says the report, "the other nations of the world—particularly our trading partners in Canada, Japan and Europe—are in the midst of developing, or have developed, comprehensive plans and policies which deal with the full range of information flow questions in an integrated manner."

To allow the U.S. to develop its own policy, the bill (H.R. 1957) would create an executive-level Council on International Communications and Information. Headed by an executive secretary appointed by the President, the council

would have as its members the secretary of state and commerce, the chairman of the FCC, the United States trade representative, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

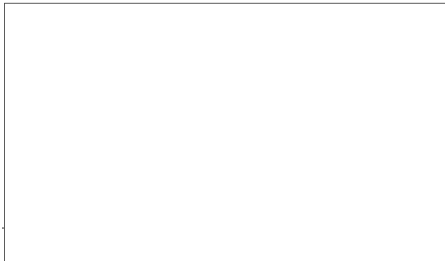
According to the bill, the council shall "coordinate the policies and activities of all federal agencies involving international communications and information," and shall "review all policy determinations of federal agencies, and all proposed statements of United States policy by such agencies, relating to international communications and information, and to approve, disapprove or modify any such policy determination or proposed statement."

for 1981 proposed about \$101.5 million for the Voice. But the Reagan administration would include \$1.2 million to keep open a VOA shortwave facility in Bethany, Ohio, that is heard in South America and Africa. The funds would be transferred from an account that was to finance an increase in personnel to do additional foreign language broadcasts. However, the Voice still plans to add the 64 3/4 hours of new programming weekly, to a total of 929 hours and 15 minutes by the end of 1981.

The Voice will add its 40th language in April, when it begins broadcasting in Azeri to the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, which borders on Iran.

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April 23, 1981



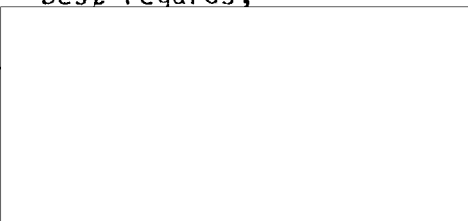
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Your recent mention of the possibility of locating VOA short wave radio stations in Alaska for the purpose of providing radio coverage of the Eastern bloc nations of Europe is most interesting. As a matter of fact, for personal reasons, I find the prospect not only exciting but also well grounded in technical justification.

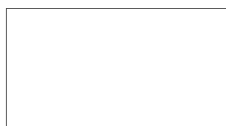
As you know, one of my hobbies is Amateur Radio and I have found that reaching and communicating with the Communist nations of Europe is very easily accomplished from my location here in Fairbanks. I have many, many times talked with fellow amateurs in Poland, East Germany, Russia, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. It almost seems easier to contact stations in these countries than it is to contact stations in the contiguous states. I feel that the location of short wave stations in Alaska would be very advantageous from a propagational point of view as a result of my experiences on the amateur bands, particularly 20 meters. As you know one of the most used short wave broadcasting bands is 19 meters which, no doubt, would exhibit very similar propagation effects.

While your idea may, on the surface, might seem somewhat farsighted I can see a real benefit to the United States in its effort to inform the enslaved people of Europe through the natural advantage offered by the location of transmitters in Alaska. I would hope that others might realize the benefit of what you are proposing and I would offer whatever assistance I might be able to add to your efforts.

Best regards,



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Executive Registry

81-565411

27 NOV 1981

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Office of the Assistant Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

Mr. Mark Fowler, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, has asked me to reply to your 24 September 1981 letter regarding [redacted] ideas on using Alaska for U.S. overseas broadcasting and the collection of foreign electronic intelligence. We have also received your note of 13 November. While I cannot speak on behalf of VOA, NSA, or other agencies, I can inform you briefly of our position on this.

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It is my understanding that in the years following World War II, when FBIS was expanding its activities, Alaska was considered--albeit only briefly--for a possible monitoring site. While a monitoring site in the far north could provide coverage of many Soviet and other radios, as Mr. [redacted] points out, FBIS determined at the time that more southerly locations would provide better all-round monitoring capability for those radios which were of interest to us. Our existing bureaus, situated further south in the Northern Hemisphere, offer the additional advantage of being able to monitor many stations to the south which cannot be covered as well, or at all, from Alaska.

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In short, our experience is that overall coverage considerations and operational efficiency make it advantageous to do our monitoring from more centrally located sites in the Far East and West Europe. We would not, of course, rule out Alaska in the event moves of economy or changing political climates in those countries where we presently operate compel us to relocate some of our overseas operations.

The Honorable Ted Stevens, U.S. Senate

Please convey to [redacted] our appreciation for his interest in this matter and let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Mark Fowler, Chairman, FCC

FBIS/FCS, [redacted] (25Nov81)

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